

ENGLISH READERS EDELVIVES



CLASSIC TALES

# Edgar Allan Poe

Oriol Malet



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# before reading

- 1 Edgar Allan Poe used quite flowery language in his tales. Look at these words taken from his stories and **classify** them in the table.

spirit      double      success      evil      duty  
impostor      mask      web      damp      cough      crypt  
soul      murder      witness      argue      sailor  
wave      deck      demon      current

| Words I know | Words I'm not sure of | Words I don't know |
|--------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
|              |                       |                    |
|              |                       |                    |
|              |                       |                    |
|              |                       |                    |
|              |                       |                    |

Now look in a dictionary to find out the meaning of the words you didn't know.

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- 2 Poe is often called the “father of the detective novel”. **Unjumble** the names of these famous detectives.

SHOCKLER HELMOS \_\_\_\_\_

SIMM MEPLAR \_\_\_\_\_

CULHERE POTIRO \_\_\_\_\_

KNOM \_\_\_\_\_

NITNIT \_\_\_\_\_

PINSOCTER GEGDAT \_\_\_\_\_

BYCOSO DOO \_\_\_\_\_

PINSOCTER COUSALEU \_\_\_\_\_

3 Poe compares the mental process of deduction and analysis with the game of chess. **Test** your knowledge of this ancient game.

Chess was first played in China / India.

The longest game in a tournament lasted 20 hours, 15 minutes / 15 hours, 20 minutes.

The queen / knight can move diagonally, horizontally and vertically.

The computer that beat world champion Gary Kasparov was called Deep Purple / Deep Blue.

Playing chess is good exercise for your leg muscles / brain.

On the 9th June 1970, the first game of chess was played between a man and a monkey / astronauts in space and technicians on Earth.

“Checkmate” comes from the Persian expression “Shah Mat” which means “the King is dead” / “Tea Time”.

4 Poe was also famous for his tales of mystery and horror. **Find** 11 words related to these frightening stories.

AFRAID      FEAR      HORROR      TERRIFYING  
CHILLING      FRIGHT      SCARY      TERROR  
CREEPY      HORRIFYING      SPOOKY

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| H | O | R | R | I | F | Y | I | N | G |
| K | H | A | M | I | P | O | Z | N | N |
| M | T | Z | T | E | H | E | I | J | I |
| O | L | H | E | H | D | Y | S | S | L |
| G | I | R | G | I | F | P | C | U | L |
| I | C | I | A | I | O | A | C | B | I |
| T | E | R | R | O | R | R | O | H | H |
| I | F | R | K | Y | A | F | H | H | C |
| A | E | Y | I | E | E | T | D | L | X |
| T | S | H | F | G | F | X | I | I | Q |

# before reading

5 Can you use 7 of the words from the wordsearch to **fill the gaps** in these sentences?

Afraid

Chilling

Creepy

Fear

Fright

Horrifying

Horror

Scary

Spooky

Terrifying

Terror

I'm not \_\_\_\_\_ of spiders, but I hate snakes!

He gave me a \_\_\_\_\_ when he jumped out from behind the tree.

The haunted house was dark and \_\_\_\_\_.

She has an irrational \_\_\_\_\_ of clowns.

Have you ever seen “\_\_\_\_\_ Movie”? It's quite funny.

I've never been to the cinema to see a \_\_\_\_\_ film.

Blackbeard the Pirate was known as the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Seven Seas.

6 Many of Edgar Allan Poe's stories have been made into films. **Correct** these film titles.

The Pit and the Street \_\_\_\_\_

The Tell-Tale Pendulum \_\_\_\_\_

Two Evil Poe \_\_\_\_\_

The Black Eyes \_\_\_\_\_

Morgue Heart \_\_\_\_\_

Tales of Alive \_\_\_\_\_

Buried Cat \_\_\_\_\_

The Cat of Marie Roger \_\_\_\_\_

The Task of the Black Death \_\_\_\_\_

## The Story of William Wilson

- 1 The narrator tells us about his happy memories of his first school. **Compare** his school to your experiences, as in the example.

William Wilson's school was in a big old house, and mine was as well.

The school was surrounded by lots of trees, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The school garden had a high wall around it, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The playground had no trees in it, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

18 or 20 boys slept together in the same room, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Every room in the school was connected to another room, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The Head Teacher hit the boys who broke the rules, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- 2 William Wilson shared many things with the other William Wilson as well as his name. **Write a list** of the things the two boys had in common.

1. They both had the same name. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

# during reading

- 3 William Wilson plays cards to win money. **Unjumble** these words related to card games and **match** them to their definitions.

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| GBINLAMG _____ | a group of cards with red hearts on them                       |
| PCAK _____     | a suite (group) of playing cards showing red diamonds          |
| JREOK _____    | cards with a pointed black leaf design                         |
| HTRAES _____   | a family of cards with a rounded black design                  |
| DODAMINS _____ | risking money in the hope of winning more                      |
| SPEADS _____   | a playing card with the picture of a clown; used in some games |
| CULBS _____    | the full group of 52 cards for playing card games              |

- 4 The doppelganger William Wilson made the narrator angry. **Complete** the reasons why.

appeared    hid    prevented    ruined  
stopped    walked    wanted    whispered

He \_\_\_\_\_ to stop the narrator doing what he wanted to do.

He \_\_\_\_\_ and dressed the same and people thought they were brothers.

He \_\_\_\_\_ their name in his ear.

He \_\_\_\_\_ playing cards in a coat and accused the narrator of cheating.

He \_\_\_\_\_ him getting a good job in Rome.

He \_\_\_\_\_ his opportunity of romance in Naples.

He \_\_\_\_\_ him from winning a lot of money in Egypt.

He \_\_\_\_\_ when he was going to seduce the Duke's young wife.

5 This story is divided into four parts. **Organise** the action into the different parts.

The narrator went to primary school.

He had bad luck everywhere he travelled.

The other boy laughed at him.

The two men fought to the death.

The coincidences between their lives seemed strange and wonderful.

He met a boy with the same name.

At night, the other boy looked terrifyingly like the narrator.

He tricked a man out of all his money.

The narrator went to secondary school.

The narrator left England.

The narrator began to hate his double.

He learned to drink alcohol and play cards.

| Part One  | Part Two  |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• _____</li><li>• _____</li><li>• _____</li><li>• _____</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• _____</li><li>• _____</li><li>• _____</li><li>• _____</li></ul> |
| Part Three  | Part Four   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• _____</li><li>• _____</li><li>• _____</li><li>• _____</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• _____</li><li>• _____</li><li>• _____</li><li>• _____</li></ul> |



# during reading

## The Cask of Amontillado

- 1 Here are some facts about Amontillado. **Give** another example for each fact.

Amontillado is an alcoholic drink - beer is too.

Amontillado is made from grapes

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Amontillado is not sweet

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Amontillado is a dark orange colour

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- 2 Poe's stories contain many expressions and words taken from other languages. **Identify** the language and meaning of these examples.

Azure In pace requiescat Fortunato Virtuoso

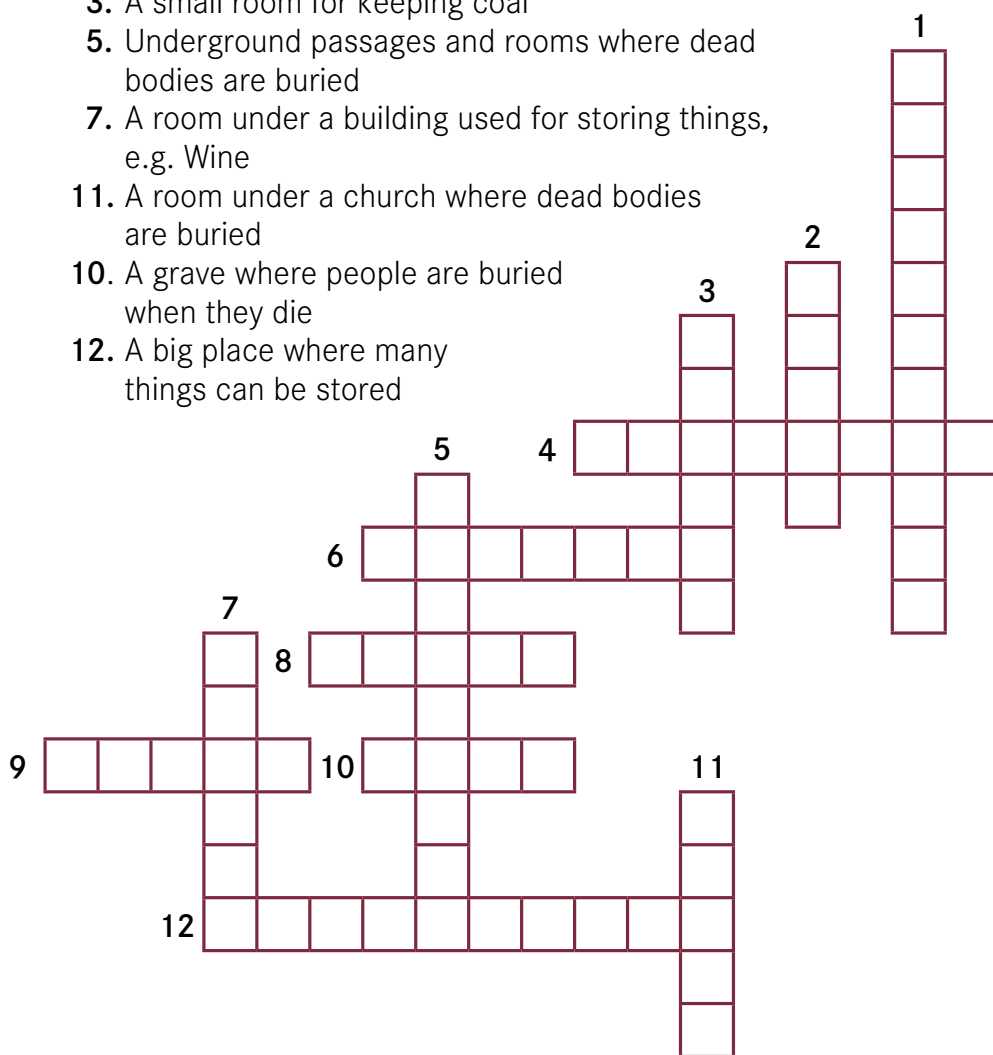
Connoisseurship Nemo me impune lacessit Palazzo

| Word or expression | Language | Meaning                                      |
|--------------------|----------|--|
|                    |          | A big, elegant building                      |
|                    |          | No one attacks me with impunity              |
|                    |          | Rest In Peace                                |
|                    |          | The blue colour used in heraldry.            |
|                    |          | The lucky man                                |
|                    |          | Knowing about and enjoying something special |
|                    |          | A person who is very good at something       |

- 3 Montresor leads Fortunato through his underground vaults to find the wine. **Use** the clues to complete the crossword.

### Down

1. Below the surface
2. A small hole in the wall used to keep things in
3. A small room for keeping coal
5. Underground passages and rooms where dead bodies are buried
7. A room under a building used for storing things, e.g. Wine
11. A room under a church where dead bodies are buried
10. A grave where people are buried when they die
12. A big place where many things can be stored



### Across

4. A building built in honour of a famous person
6. A long narrow space leading from one room to another
8. A hole in the ground where a dead person is buried
9. A specially protected room for keeping things safe

## The Murders in the Rue Morgue

- 1 The narrator admired his friend's ability to be creative and rational at the same time. **Reconstruct** Dupin's reasoning by ordering all the parts of this very long sentence.

The narrator was thinking about / and he'd hurt his ankle on a loose stone / who had become an actor / and had been humiliated, / who had humiliated the actor / because a fruit seller / of the satirical critic / whose spelling had changed, / had pushed into him / but later he saw some regular blocks / and remembered their Greek name / of a noble Greek cosmologist / and he had looked up / and seen the constellation of Orion / Chantilly the shoemaker / which reminded him / which reminded him

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- 2 The police interviewed a lot of witnesses but the information they learned simply confused them more. **Match** the witnesses' names to their professions.

|                   |               |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Adolphe Le Bon    | bank clerk    |
| Alberto Montani   | banker        |
| Alexandre Etienne | confectioner  |
| Alfonzo Garcio    | laundress     |
| Henri Duval       | physician     |
| Jules Mignaud     | restauranteur |
| Odenheimer        | silver-smith  |
| Paul Dumas        | surgeon       |
| Pauline Dubourg   | tailor        |
| William Bird      | undertaker    |

- 3 The witnesses had different theories about the voices they heard as they ran up the stairs. **Add** the missing details they gave the police.

| Witness's name | Witness's profession | Witness's nationality | Nationality of murderer | Gender of murderer |
|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
|                | gendarme             |                       | Spanish                 |                    |
|                | silver-smith         | French (?)            |                         |                    |
| Odenheimer     |                      |                       | French                  | Male (?)           |
| William Bird   |                      | English               |                         |                    |
|                | undertaker           |                       | English                 | Male (?)           |
|                | confectioner         | Italian               |                         |                    |

- 4 When the police found the two ladies they were terribly injured. **Unjumble** the injuries to complete the descriptions.

The corpse of the young lady was very \_\_\_\_\_, having been forced up the chimney. The throat had several deep \_\_\_\_\_ just below the chin, and a series of livid \_\_\_\_\_ which were evidently the impressions of fingers. The face was terribly discolored, and the eyeballs \_\_\_\_\_. The tongue had been half \_\_\_\_\_ off. Mademoiselle L'Esplanaye had been \_\_\_\_\_ to death. The corpse of the mother was horribly \_\_\_\_\_. All the bones of the right leg and arm were broken. The head of the deceased was entirely \_\_\_\_\_ from the body.

- 5 **Draw** a plan of the house and patio showing how the orang-outang got in to murder the two women. (Don't forget the shutters and the lightning rod!)

# during reading

## Manuscript Found in a Bottle

- 1 This story includes many nautical terms. **Categorise** the following words.

Cardinal points

Mile

Compass

Northern

Degree

Scale

Eastwards

South-west

Fathom

Sunset

League

Ton

| Directions | Measurement |
|------------|-------------|
|            |             |

- 2 **Separate** the twelve different words related to ships in this word-snake.

anchorshipumpooportholesailadde  
rudderopesternavigationchartanker

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3 **Find** the correct endings to make 10 sea and weather words.

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| B | ataract  |
| C | oam      |
| F | empest   |
| H | urf      |
| O | reeze    |
| O | imoom    |
| S | ave      |
| S | cean     |
| T | verboard |
| W | urricane |

4 In his footnote at the end of the tale, Poe refers to the maps of Mercator. **Fill the gaps** in this explanation of the Belgian cartographer's work using the words below.

history   lines   map   sailors   world

Gerardus Mercator wanted his \_\_\_\_\_ to represent the geography of the \_\_\_\_\_ and at the same time to 'correct' the chart so it was more useful to \_\_\_\_\_. This 'correction' showed the sailing routes around the globe as straight \_\_\_\_\_ on the map. Modern knowledge has changed the map's geography, but this was one of the most significant advances in the \_\_\_\_\_ of cartography.

5 Imagine you were on the same terrible ship on the same terrible journey. **Write** a message - not a manuscript - to put in a bottle and throw into the sea (20 words max.)

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# after reading

- 1 Poe liked to make his readers think hard, giving them enigmas and mysteries to work out. Can you **deduce** the answer to this lateral thinking puzzle?

The police have been given anonymous information about a murderer called John who is hiding in a house. The officers go to the house and find a carpenter, a lorry driver, a doctor and a fireman playing cards. They immediately arrest the fireman. How do they know they have the murderer?

**Clue:** The police only know two things - the criminal's name and where he is.

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- 2 Who is being described? **Match** the adjectives to the characters from Poe's tales.

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| William Wilson<br>(narrator)     | wealthy, unimaginative,<br>desperate   |
| William Wilson<br>(double)       | shrill, agile,<br>strong               |
| Montresor                        | sincere, analytical,<br>bizarre        |
| Fortunato                        | very old, incomprehensible,<br>excited |
| Dupin                            | proud, intoxicated,<br>crazy           |
| Ourang-outang                    | honourable, soft-spoken,<br>elegant    |
| The writer of the<br>manuscript  | insulted, knowledgeable,<br>satisfied  |
| The Captain of the<br>black ship | wild, worried,<br>angry                |

**3** **Put** the great changes and discoveries that happened during Poe's life in chronological order.

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| 1803:   | The Erie Canal opened connecting the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean.                           |
| 1825:   | The Texas Revolution in Mexico  |
| 1829:   | Special Indian territory established in what is now the eastern part of Oklahoma.                 |
| 1835/6: | Many deaths on the "Trail of Tears" as Cherokees forced to trek to the Indian Territory.          |
| 1837:   | Dr. William Morton, a Massachusetts dentist, first used anaesthesia for tooth extraction.         |
| 1834:   | The United States more than doubled in size when it bought France's territories in North America. |
| 1838:   | Samuel Morse and his assistant, Alfred Vail, developed the telegraph.                             |
| 1846:   | First locomotive in the United States on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad                          |

**4** Poe included many autobiographical details in his stories. **Identify** the story which includes these facts.

**Celebrated his birthday on 19th January.**

**Used a name which was not his own.**

**Went to school in England.**

**Lost money gambling.**

**Had problems with alcohol.**

**Made an enemy of the other students.**

**Was never as rich as he wanted to be because his businesses failed.**

**Died in mysterious circumstances.**

The story is \_\_\_\_\_



# after reading

- 5 What details do you remember about the four tales? **Complete** the following table.

|                       | William Wilson | The Cask of Amontillado | Murders in the Rue Morgue | Manuscript Found in a Bottle |
|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Geographical Location |                |                         |                           |                              |
| Historical Period     |                |                         |                           |                              |
| Duration of Story     |                |                         |                           |                              |
| Happy Ending?         |                |                         |                           |                              |

- 6 **Categorise** these words from the glossary by their sounds.

amazed      ape      bargain      bruise      cask  
 chamber      closet      corpse      deceased      dizzily  
 fancy      hatch      knot      raving      mate  
 mattress      padlock      rustle      paving stone  
 razor      Sybil      tar-brush      whip      whirlpool      wrinkle

| Silent letter | “s”               |                   | “a”               |                    |                   |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
|               | /s/ (as in “sun”) | /z/ (as in “zip”) | /ei/ (as in face) | /a:/ (as in “car”) | /a/ (as in “hat”) |
|               |                   |                   |                   |                    |                   |